



Updates

Sharing news of our ministry for praise and prayer

May - July 2026

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.

Colossians 4:2-3

THE DAMASCUS TRUST

ACV continue to visit one of the Night Shelters in Oradea. They are well supported by a local Christian restaurant owner who provides hot meals for the team to take into the guests staying at the shelter. Emmanuel University students also help out with singing, testimonies and interacting with the guests. With the warmer weather, the 'services' are held outside and then food is served inside.

ACV provides practical help and support for some of the poorest families living on the edges of the city. There is one family with seven children, where the father is in prison. Recently one of the younger children died, but the family did not have the money to pay for the funeral. So ACV raised around £700 to help with the costs. Please pray for the mother, Florica and the rest of her family at this time, including the father Hendre. Pray too that they will respond to the Christian gospel which ACV share through word and deed.

When working with ex-offenders, there is always the risk of disappointment. ACV has been supporting an ex-offender, Ciprien, for the past 7 months. They paid for some accommodation and found him some work. He attended church services and worked alongside others at ACV. Things were going well - but then he disappeared leaving behind him some debts that his Christian employer has had to pick up. Please pray for Ciprien, and for others who find it hard to live as a new disciple of Jesus. Pray that he will come back to follow Jesus.

On Thursdays in Oradea Prison, ACV has started a new programme for inmates - Prisoners' Journey. The aim of this programme is to help prisoners have a better view of themselves and what they can achieve, especially when leaving prison. It gives them practical help in writing a CV and dealing with a job interview. There are around 15 inmates on the weekly course.

Every third Sunday, the ACV team, led by Emil Bodog, leads an afternoon service for inmates. This is well attended and gives opportunity for Bible teaching as well as sharing communion for those who declare Christ as Saviour.

The weekly guitar classes, which run in term time and have been a main part of ACV's weekly programme, have had to stop temporarily. The problem is finding a capable teacher who can commit to leading the weekly sessions. Teachers from the past have had to stop because of other commitments or ill health. Ω

PHOTO PAGE FOR ROMANIA



From top clockwise:

- ACV 'choir', including students from Emanuel Uni, sing worship songs at the Night Shelter.
- An appreciative audience!
- A short message from the Bible.
- Hot food is served! Food is delivered from the restaurant in insulated tubs.



Partners

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR ASOCIAȚIA CĂRAREA VIEȚII

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2

Praise the Lord for outreach work run in the Night Shelter each month. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to speak into the lives of the guests to give them hope in Christ.

Give thanks for the partnership with the Christian restaurant owner, Daniel, and for his willingness to provide the hot meals for the Night Shelter as part of ACV's visits. Pray God's blessing on his business and his outreach work. He provides free meals for the homeless in Oradea each week.

Please pray for the different programmes that ACV is part of running in Oradea prison. Pray that they will help inmates to recognise their need of a Saviour who alone can change their hearts and give them hope for the future.

Pray too for the prison staff, especially for Assistant Director Laura who helps to organise ACV's activities and for the Director, Cyprien, who is supportive of all that is done by Christian groups.

Monthly prayer meetings have been established within the life of ACV, led by Nicu Maior. Matters for prayer and praise are also shared with partner churches in Oradea. Thank the Lord for the impact prayer has on their ministry and pray for good communication with partner churches.

Pray for each ACV Manager and the area of responsibility they have. Emil (prison services) Nicu (prayer) Iosif (food distribution) Sorin (prison courses, guitar class) Florin (Night Shelter) Oliver (logistics) Noemi (students).

Pray for protection, spiritual and physical, on all who work with ACV as volunteers. As they work with those on the margins of society, pray that the Holy Spirit will empower and enable them for the work amongst young and old alike.

We thank the Lord for the financial support that is being given for the ministry, by individuals as well as by partner churches. Pray that the money will be used well.

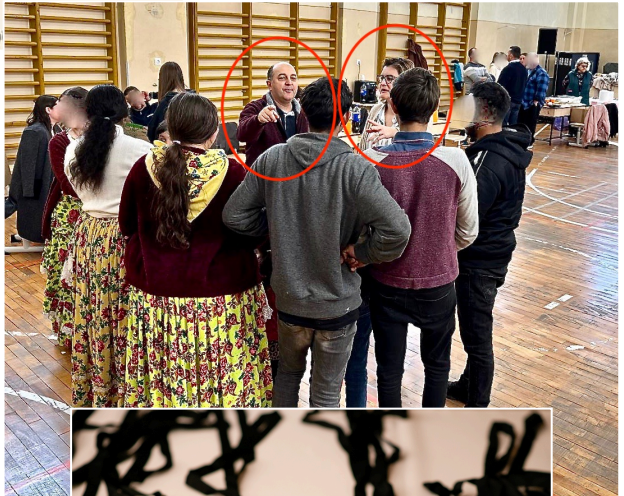
Please pray for the ex-offenders that ACV has worked with and who have professed Christ as their Saviour, yet struggle to stay out of trouble. Pray especially for Ciprien (mentioned above) who has gone missing. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will keep them from bad influences and from wandering away from following Jesus.

Praise God for the students from Emanuel University who faithfully help ACV, especially with the work at the Night Shelter and in the prison. Pray that they will be blessed as they serve in this way.



Program aprobat de Administrația Națională a Penitenciarelor din România

- From top to bottom:
- ACV (Sorin circled) are invited to round table meetings for NGOs working in Oradea prison.
 - One Day With Father programme that ACV are helping to run in Oradea prison.
 - Each One Day with Father course has a day for prisoners and their families to have activities together in a local sports hall. ACV volunteers (circled) help to organise and run these events.
 - Prisoner's Journey programme manuals.



DTAH Bible teaching:

We are halfway through our latest DTAH Bible teaching course - Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith. Both afternoon and evening groups are well supported and it's good to be reminded of (or introduced to) God's eternal plan that includes both Jews and Gentiles. Very relevant for these present times.



Every now and again we get an email or a phone call from someone who has been encouraged or challenged by one of our **ENGAGE with the Bible** readings. It is so good to know that the Holy Spirit is involved in this small, but useful ministry. We are encouraged to know that what we write for a certain day in the future, is then 'spot on' for an individual when that day comes. Praise be to Jesus!



Development Fund for pastors and parishes:

This Fund is now up and running in Byumba diocese and DT is donating £4000 as an initial amount. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial help to both pastors and parishes in the form of short-term financial loans.

For parishes, a loan can enable them to do the necessary building work to comply with the required building regulations and so open again for church services. For both parishes and pastors, a loan can help them set up an income-generating project. These benefit the parish as a whole and help to lift them out of poverty and reliance on outside help. For an individual pastor an income-generating project supplements their small stipend and can help them to prepare for retirement and providing for their family.

However, there are some pastors who were too old to go for further training to get the necessary academic qualifications. So they had to retire early. They also need to have access to this loan fund so that they can provide for themselves and their families through income-generating projects. Some need to build a house, and a short-term loan can help them do this.

Our monthly SAP donations will now go into this Development Fund so as to help both parishes and pastors. So please continue to pray that this fund will be a practical blessing and encouragement to all.



Partners

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR DAMASCUS TRUST

Help for particular needs: Recently, because of the generosity of a couple of UK partners, a loan which had been made by the diocese to help a pastor and his family in their time of need, has now been repaid. Thank you D & L!

Extra Theological Training: Nine pastors in Byumba diocese have begun the extra theological training that is required for them to continue as pastors. Four pastors need 4 years of training and five pastors need just 1 year to attain the required level. The annual cost per pastor is £750. Through the generosity of another couple of individuals DT will provide termly support for these nine pastors in the hope that the Lord will provide what is needed going forward. DT is sharing the costs with the diocese on a 60/40% split. If you would like to help with these costs, then please get in touch with our office. Ω

DTU 2.26

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Eph 2:19-20

Give thanks for all who provide financial support for the work of DT, both in the UK and overseas. Whether on a regular basis or a one-off donation, we are grateful for all who we can serve and help as a result.

Please pray for continued wisdom and integrity in the use of DT funds. We're aware of the responsibility we have and the opportunities to help and bless the Church of Jesus in various places.

Please pray that the Lord will continue to provide the money to fulfil our commitments to our overseas partners, month by month.

Please pray for the remainder of the DTAH Bible teaching course. Pray that all of us attending will understand more about the richness of our inheritance in Messiah Jesus - and then share what we learn with other people.

Pray that we will all have a better understanding of God's sovereign choice and of our part in making known his plan of salvation to all nations.

Pray for our Trustees and their families. We thank the Lord for the ongoing recovery of Floyd's wife, Anne, following a brain aneurysm. It's taken a long time and there is more to be done, but we're grateful for all the prayer support and medical care from the NHS.

Please pray for the local work of Andy and Liz in Tamworth. Helping with leading two church services each month as well as the monthly Men's Breakfast. Though numbers are small-ish, the enthusiasm is big, especially for God's

PHOTO PAGE FOR RWANDA



From top down:

- Easter celebrations at Ruhondo sub-parish.
- Easter shared meal at Rwesero parish.
- Ven Sam Kayitare meets with vulnerable teenagers.
- Youth meeting in Karama parish
- ECDC at Karama parish.



In **Byumba diocese**, the financial challenges remain. Health Insurance for pastors and their families needs to be paid; parish church buildings need to be upgraded to meet building regulations; a diocesan loan has to be repaid (this covers some of the loss of income with church buildings being closed); the new cathedral building has been started, so needs to continue. Then there is a need to maintain the motivation within the diocese, amongst pastors and congregations.

A Diocesan Development Fund is now set up to provide financial help to pastors and parishes. See more details under the UK section above.

Yet in amongst these challenges, God is at work. Where church buildings are open, there is a big increase in people attending services. Many parishes run two or even three services each Sunday. Home groups are flourishing as people value these times together. There is a growing hunger for Bible teaching and practical help is being offered, especially to expectant mothers and the elderly. Work amongst the children and young people is increasing and many people are learning to follow Jesus.

Gasabo Diocese: The process for electing a new Archbishop / Bishop of Gasabo, has begun. The consecration of the new Archbishop/Bishop is expected to take place in October this year. Whoever is appointed will need Holy Spirit power and wisdom as they steer the Anglican Church in Rwanda through challenging times.

In Gasabo diocese, there is a focus on developing sustainable income-generating projects for the benefit of both pastors and parishes. Building small business premises on diocesan land has provided income from rental and jobs for local people. The diocese also has a number of Church based schools (ECDCs). These are also being developed to be self-sustainable.

During Lent, where church buildings are open, the congregations went through 40 days of Bible teaching which has been a great blessing to all. This became a means of outreach as well, as many people confessed Christ as their Saviour and Lord at Easter celebrations. Baptisms will follow.

Gasabo diocese has a Pastor's Development Fund which now has government approval. This gives it similar legality as a bank. This money is available to help pastors with short-term, very low interest loans which they can use to set up income-generating projects or house building, providing for their retirement and families.

Only 6 out of 24 church buildings are open in Gasabo diocese. Building work has been done in those that are closed, but there is long delay in getting the necessary inspection and paperwork for them to re-open. Ω

DTU 2.26



Partners

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR DIOCESES OF BYUMBA & GASABO

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. Isa 43:2

Please pray for congregations in rural locations who have to walk for long distances to get to an open church for worship. Many people have struggled with the challenges and have now stopped attending services.

Building costs in Kigali City (Gasabo) are extremely high, and so building houses for clergy is very difficult. Please pray about this need for pastors' housing.

Another ongoing challenge is providing medical insurance for the pastors and their families. This, as well as the cost of education, is a big problem for all pastors. Please pray for the necessary help and support to be set up within the diocese.

We've been asked to pray for the process of appointing a new Archbishop / Bishop of Gasabo. Pray for all involved in the selection process, that they will seek and receive Holy Spirit guidance.

Give thanks for all that Abp/Bp Laurent Mbanda has been able to do during his time in office, for ADoG and for the Church in Rwanda. Many church buildings have been improved or rebuilt and congregations have grown. Different social programmes have also been established to support the spiritual teaching of the Church.

Please pray for the ongoing need to get church buildings open, especially in Byumba diocese. A number of smaller rural buildings have had to close permanently because it is not viable to bring them up to required building regs. Please pray for those congregations that are affected that they will be able to meet in other places.

In both Byumba and Gasabo dioceses, a significant number of clergy are having to gain further theological qualifications. Please pray for these pastors and for their congregations whilst they are away studying.

Please pray for people coping with the rising costs of living in Rwanda. As in many countries, the poorest are hit the hardest. Please pray that the limited help that the local Church can offer will be multiplied by the Lord to help many individuals and families who are in need.

Please continue to pray for Boniface's wife Claudine and their children Fiston, Alice, Samuel, Denyse, Aline, as they adjust to life without their husband and father.

Pray also for the Church in Giti in their loss of Pastor Boniface. Pray that others will take up areas of ministry that need to be covered.

With so many church buildings still closed, pastors and church leaders face ongoing challenges to provide spiritual, emotional and practical support for their congregations. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to sustain and equip them.

However, we praise God for the positive things that are happening as a result of buildings being closed. Praise God for the increase in numbers attending church services and for more services being run each week. The work of God continues!

Helpful abbreviations: DT = Damascus Trust; SAP = Support A Parish; ADoB = Anglican Diocese of Byumba; ADoG = Anglican Diocese of Gasabo;; ECDC = Early Childhood Development Centre



From top down:

- Easter celebrations at Nyabihu parish
- Tsimba parish congregation travel to Kabarore parish for their services.
- Easter confirmation service at Ruhondo sub parish with Bp Emmanuel.



WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Trustees: Robin Swan (& Hilary); Peter Harrington (& Susanna); Floyd Davis (& Anne)

SAP Coordinator: Hilary Swan; **General:** Andy & Liz Paine

Local Coordinators: Sorin Maier (Romania); Placide Nizeyimana (Byumba); Samuel Kayitare (Gasabo)

Christian Partner Organisations:

Asociația Căderea Vieții / Path of Life Association, Romania, overseen by Sorin Maier

Diocese of Byumba, Rwanda cared for by Bishop Emmanuel Ngendahayo

Diocese of Gasabo, Rwanda cared for by Archbishop Laurent Mbanda

Rwanda SAP Programme:

Parishes/Pastors with ADoB, Rwanda:

Bwambi - Rev. Onesime; wife Marie
Gaseke - Rev. Seth; wife Jeanette
Giheta - Rev. Lucien; wife Dative
+ Giti - Vacant
Kibare - Rev. Evariste; wife Venerand
+ Kinihira - Evangelist Elish
Kinyana - Rev. Mutsinzi; wife Francis
Kitazugurwa - Rev. Jean Bosco; wife Henriette
Mimuli - Rev. Alexis Moses; wife Clementine
Mugina - Rev. Celestin
Ngarama - Rev. Placide; wife Susanna
Nyabihu - Rev. Innocent; wife Marie
Nyande - Rev. Sylvere; wife Seraphine
Rebero - Rev. Augustine; wife Florence
Ruhondo - Rev. Clementine
Ruyange - Rev. Kezia (widow)
Rwasa - Rev. Diogene; wife Françoise
Rwesero - Rev. Felicien; wife Placidie
Tsimba - Rev. Jean de Dieu; wife Rev. Patricie
Tumba - Rev. Philibert; wife Ernestine
+ sub-parish

Parishes/Pastors with ADoG, Rwanda:

Gacuriro - Dcn Cyprian
* Karama - Rev. Clement; wife Marie Immaculee
* Kayanga - Revd Benjamin; wife Egidie
Kinyinya - Rev. Samuel; wife Grace
* Nduba - Dcn Appolinaire; wife Françoise
Nkuzuzu - Rev. Alfred; wife Claudette
Nyabikenke - Rev. Eugene; wife Marie Claire
Rubungo - Rev. Emmanuel; wife Francine
* new parish plants

ACV Romania:

Board / Management Team

Sorin Maier	Emil Bodog
Iosif Rezmives	Florin Maghiar
Oliver Lazar	Noemi Lazar
Nicu Maier	

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